

Alderman J.W. Tucker

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It might almost be said that Christchurch has grown up around the name of Tucker—a name that has been in the forefront of many town activities for the best part of 150 years.

Ald. J.W. Tucker, former Mayor and senior member of the Town Council at the present time, is one in the long line of the Tucker family who has devoted almost all of his spare energy to matters concerning the welfare of the borough.

"Hobbies? Well, apart from a game of bowls my Council and other activities take up all my spare time," he says. However, he is a founder member of the Bowling Club, and was President in 1931.

As a grocer there isn't much that Ald. Tucker doesn't know about the trade. All his life he has been in the business founded by his great-grandfather in 1798. He was educated at a private school called Evans School, which was situated in Purewell where Petulengro later carried on business.

While Ald. Tucker says he hasn't much time for hobbies, there is one thing at which he is particularly adept. It is the keeping of other people's accounts in order. The office of treasurer to various organisations has fallen to his lot on many occasions, and perhaps more important still is his work as Chairman of the Council's Financial Committee.

INTEREST IN FARMING

There is a definite link between grocer and farmer, and perhaps that is why Ald. Tucker has always shown such a keen interest in the South Avon and Stour Agricultural Society, of which he has been treasurer since 1924. That year was an outstanding one for him in the matter of treasurerships because it was then that he also took over the financial side of Christchurch Regatta, whose finances he has looked after ever since.

The town's highest honour came to Ald. Tucker in 1930, when he became Mayor just two years after his election to the Council, and it was during his two years as first citizen that he became an alderman.

The Priory Church has always claimed much of Alderman Tucker's interest, and since 1927 he has been treasurer to the Church Council. Ald. Tucker's name numbers among the trustees of the Clingan's and Magdalen charities and, to revert to his business interests for a moment, it was as far back as 1926 that he was elected Chairman of the Bournemouth and District Grocers' Association.

"Yes, I have seen many changes in our old borough," commented Ald. Tucker, "but not nearly so many as I have seen in the town over the border."